Pinocchio

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PINOCCHIO
ピノッキオ
AROUND THE TIME WHEN THE GREAT DEPRESSION HAD TORN APART THE GLORY OF THE 1920S.
IT HAPPENED WHEN I WAS STILL A YOUNG GIRL.
WHICH HAD BEEN CALLED THE "ROARING TWENTIES" BECAUSE OF THE ECONOMIC BOOM GENERATED BY SPECIAL PROCUREMENTS.
I MET HIM.

HE KNEW THAT
I WAS REALLY JUST A CHILD.

新鋭が描く銃と少年と初恋の物語。

THE STORY OF A GUN, A BOY AND FIRST LOVE BY AN UPCOMING AUTHOR.

ピノッキオ

Pinocchio

鶴見悠

TSURUMI YUU

銃を手にしたピノッキオは、僕の救いだった。

THE PINOCCHIO WHO HELD A GUN IN HIS HAND SAVED ME.

I GUESS THAT'S EVERYONE...
I AM A CLEANER.
I CLEAN UP PEOPLE.
MAFIA
AND TERROR-ISTS...

DASH
CLUNK
SMACK

OWW!
!
BAM

YOU'RE... AN ASSASSIN
...HURRY UP AND KILL ME.
YOU CAME TO KILL EVERYONE, RIGHT?
!
!?
DO YOU...
WANT TO DIE...?
OF COURSE NOT.
I WANT TO LIVE.
ALL THOSE GUYS WERE NO GOOD,
BUT THEY STILL WANTED TO LIVE.
slap
!
...
...IF I'M SEEN WORKING,
I HAVE TO KILL THE PERSON WHO SAW ME

But when I kill children, I get terrible nightmares.
Ones where I'm breaking apart...
Don't tell anyone
Is a hundred dollars enough to keep you quiet?
Take that and go home
I hope we don't meet again
...

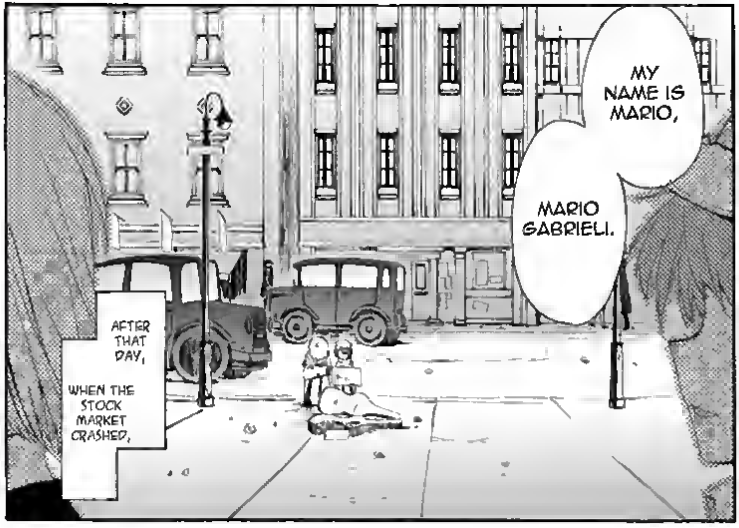
WAIT!
I DON'T REALLY HAVE A HOME TO RETURN TO...
MY MOTHER AND FATHER COMMITTED SUICIDE...
IF YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME, THEN TAKE RESPONSIBILITY!
...!?
WE'RE IN A DEPRESSION
ALL YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE ME IS A HUNDRED DOLLARS?
ARE YOU TELLING ME TO DIE A SLOW DEATH
LIKE THE ORPHANS IN THE BACK ALLEYS?

I HATE GROWN-UPS!
I DON'T WANT THAT. SO THAT'S WHY I PUT UP WITH BEING SECURITY FOR A LOAN!
YOU'RE SO LUCKY THAT YOU HAVE A JOB!
..ARE YOU TELLING ME TO DO SOME-THING?
MAKE ME
YOUR ASSISTANT.
...Huh?!

I'VE GOT A GOOD MEMORY.
WE SHOULD BE PARTNERS.
I WON'T TELL ANYONE ELSE, AND I CAN KEEP A LOOKOUT TOO.
W-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I CAN'T...
THEN KILL ME
RIGHT NOW.
WATCH ME BLEED AND TURN COLD
UNTIL THE VERY END.

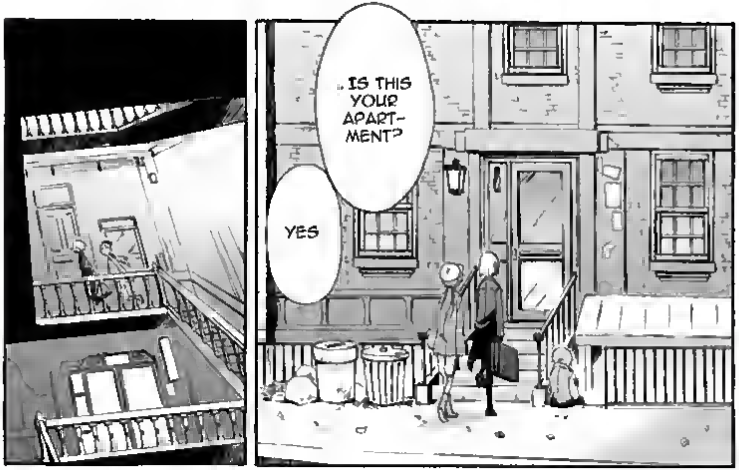
COME WITH ME FOR NOW.
LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME
SOME-ONE'S SAID THAT TO ME...


MY NAME IS MARIO,
MARIO GABRIELI.
AFTER THAT DAY,
WHEN THE STOCK MARKET CRASHED,

SOCIALISM, FASCISM AND THE SOUND OF THE ARMY'S BOOTS.
IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF AN ERA IN WHICH AN AIR OF UNREST CONSUMED THE ENTIRE WORLD.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
HUNDREDS OF INVESTORS COMMITTED SUICIDE.
THOUSANDS BECAME ORPHANS OR UNEMPLOYED.
IS IT YOUR REAL NAME?
HUH? WHAT'S THAT?
...IS IT STRANGE?
IT'S NOT STRANGE... IT'S MORE LIKE IT'S NO GOOD.
IT'S NOT A HUMAN NAME...
.....
"COLLARE".

...
Ahem
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT WHILE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WHAT WE'LL DO NEXT.
...ANY-WAY!
BAT


...IS THIS YOUR APART-MENT?
YES

REALLY SERIOUS?
THANK YOU.
SO ARE YOU
...IT'S A NICE PLACE..
...A CHILD WHO IS DEAD IN THE EYES OF SOCIETY HAS TO CRAWL HIS WAY UP.
IT WON'T BE PLEASANT.
THIS ISN'T A FANTASY WORLD.
I KNOW!
I'M TWELVE YEARS OLD NOW!
I KNOW THE TRUTH BEHIND THINGS!
BUT..
...
THEN LET'S DO THIS...

!?
WE'RE SHARING THE WORK.
WHA...
YOU'LL TAKE CARE OF
THE HOUSE-WORK.
.....
ALRIGHT..
YOU'LL LEAVE ONCE YOU FIND SOME PROPER WORK.
GOT IT?
BUT...
GULP
PARTNERS ARE SUPPOSED TO COMPENSATE FOR EACH OTHER'S FAULTS, AREN'T THEY?
YOU WON'T FIND ANY WORK FOR A WHILE ANYWAY...

AH!
I FORGOT THE FORKS!
I'M DOING MY SHARE OF WORK,
SO YOU CAN'T COMPLAIN, RIGHT?
HERE'S LUNCH!
THUD
...WHAT AM I DOING...?
CLUTTER
CLICK
I MUST DESTROY ANYTHING THAT COULD BRING ME TROUBLE...
THE RULE IS THAT WITNESSES HAVE TO BE DISPOSED OF.
FORMING RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER PEOPLE IS AN ACT OF BETRAYAL TO THE ORGANISATION.

!
turn
AH.
WHY ARE YOU STANDING BEHIND ME...?
AH, NOTHING...
I JUST THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW WHERE THE FORKS ARE
AH, I SEE!
I JUST HAPPENED TO BE HAVING TROUBLE FINDING THEM
...
UMM...

I'LL CALL YOU NICHOLAS...
I THINK
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE NICE TO NAME YOU AFTER "SAINT NICHOLAS"
SO I DON'T WANT TO CALL YOU "COLLARE"
...WHEN YOU LET ME LIVE,
...ACTUALLY,
I WAS KIND OF SCARED THAT YOU'D SHOOT ME FROM BEHIND
I FELT AS IF I COULD ESCAPE FROM
MY TERRIBLE LIFE—

BUT YOU DIDN'T.
SO I THOUGHT THAT
YOU MUST BE KINO AFTER ALL.
AH!
YOUR TEA WILL GET COLD
...NO
THAT WAS JUST...
.IT'S WARM

AH
HUH? WHAT'S THE MATTER?!
DOES IT TASTE BAD?!
NO... I'M SORRY.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT..
I'VE EXPERIENCED A LOT OF THINGS FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY.
I DON'T KNOW
THE NAME OF THIS FEELING I HAVEN'T EXPERIENCED BEFORE.

I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T KNOW...
...WHAT IS IT?

JUST WHAT KIND OF LIFE DID YOU HAVE?!
YOU HARDLY EVER DID LAUNDRY?
I'LL ALWAYS LOOK AFTER YOU!
thumbs up
I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE

LOOK AFTER ME, HUH...?

BUT
I CAN'T KEEP LIVING LIKE THIS.
I HAVEN'T... RECEIVED ANY LETTERS FROM MY EMPLOYER..
THE ORGANISATION WON'T FORGIVE ME
AS LONG AS MARIO IS ALIVE
BUT...
I...
...
HIDE!
WHOOSH

SPURT
UH...
DRIP
DRIP
UGH
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP DOING THIS?
DON'T TELL ME
YOU'VE LET YOUR GUARD DOWN?
.....!?
NICO ...?!
YOR

I'VE COME TO TAKE YOU,
"COLLARE".
SO THE ONE THE ORGANI-SATION SENT WAS YOU...
SANGE...!
KILL THAT KID.
COME, LET'S GO BACK TO-GETHER

HE'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!
I'M THE ONE WHO BROKE THE RULES.
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO SHOULD BE PUNISHED.
SO...
NICHO-LAS...
twitch
SHOCK
DON'T DEFILE HIM WITH THAT NAME!
HIS NAME IS "COLLARE"!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHY ARE YOU PROTECTING THAT KID?!

THINGS WILL RETURN TO NORMAL...!
THE ORGANISATION WILL FORGIVE YOU IF YOU KILL HIM.
THAT'S RIGHT.
MARIO IS
NICHOLAS...
AN OUTSIDER WHO CAME INTO MY LIFE.
...COME ON, PULL THE TRIGGER.
EVEN IF YOU DESIRE HAPPINESS IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD, IT CAN'T HAPPEN.
BECAUSE
WE CAN'T BECOME HUMAN.

I...
BUT
BUT...
BANG

I CAN'T KILL MARIO.
BECAUSE TO ME, HE IS REALLY...
RUN!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SHOT ME, COL-LARE...

SLAM
VROOM
HEY!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
ARE YOU?!
WE'RE GOING TO A HIDEOUT NOW.
I'LL TELL YOU EVERY-THING THERE.
...I'M FINE.
I'M FINE...

...THIS?
YES.
THANK YOU

THERE'S..
MEDICINE IN MY BAG
FIND IT...

...ARE YOU GOING TO BE OKAY USING THAT?
...YES.

GRIT
GRIT
GRIT
UGH...
HAA...
...
ARE YOU... REALLY OKAY?
SHOULDN'T YOU SEE A DOCTOR..?
LET ME.. REST FOR A WHILE...
IT'S... IT'S MY FAULT.
BECAUSE I INSISTED ON STAYING...

!
I'LL.
BE FINE
I SHOULD
TELL YOU
EVERY-THING...
I'M
AN IMITATION OF A HUMAN.

THIS IS WHAT I AM.
I AM A DOLL PIECED TOGETHER FROM DEAD BODIES AND MACHINERY.
AS LONG AS I HAVE THE MEDICINE I TOOK EARLIER, I CAN REPAIR MYSELF, EVEN WHEN I'M INJURED.
BUT IF I DON'T TAKE THE MEDICINE REGULARLY, MY FLESH WILL ROT—
MY LEGS, ARMS
AND BRAIN...
...THIS COUNTRY
DESIRES STRONG BUT DISPOSABLE SOLDIERS.

IN ORDER TO GO TO WAR AGAIN
AND USE THE PROSPERITY OF WAR TO RETURN THINGS TO THE WAY THEY WERE BEFORE THE DEPRESSION,
THE JOB OF ALL THE TEST SUBJECTS LIKE US
IS TO SHOW THE STATE
THAT WE ARE EFFICIENT ENOUGH
TO KILL PEOPLE.
AS LONG AS WE WORK, WE'RE GIVEN THE MEDICINE
I'VE KILLED SO MANY PEOPLE
BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID TO ROT AWAY AND DIE
EVEN THOUGH I'M A CORPSE
MAFIA MEMBERS AND REVOLU-TIONARIES
I'VE KILLED PEOPLE WHO WERE INCONVENIENT FOR THIS COUNTRY

I ACTED LIKE A HUMAN
JUST TO DISGUISE MYSELF.
BECAUSE NO ONE WAS ALLOWED TO KNOW ABOUT THE DOLL PRODUCTION FACTORY,
I'M AN IMITATION WHO'S TOLD NOTHING BUT LIES...
!
...THIS IS JUST
...IT'S FUNNY, ISN'T IT?
I...
LIKE A CONFESSION.

I HATE...
THIS WORLD..
THAT'S ENOUGH.
THAT'S ENOUGH..
AN IMITATION WOULDN'T CRY
YOUR SMILE WASN'T A LIE.

!
!
OH NO! I FELL ASLEEP?!
MARIO IS..
AH.
YOU COULD HAVE SLEPT A LITTLE LONGER
JUMP

YOU SEE...
WE DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY WITH US.
panic
AH!
THAT? I SOLD IT!
YOUR HAIR...
I
THIS IS ALL I CAN DO.
SO...
I bought some food too
LOOK AT THIS!
A BRAND NEW SHIRT!
W-WHAT?
IT WASN'T A BOYISH HAIRCUT ANYWAY...
HOW COULD YOU...

THANK YOU.
BUT... YOU DON'T HAVE TO PROTECT YOURSELF LIKE THAT ANYMORE.
!
YOU'RE MARIA, NOT MARIO.
I KNOW THAT MUCH...

LET'S STAY TOGETHER.
WE'LL LOOK FOR A PLACE WHERE WE CAN LIVE TOGETHER.
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN.
I'LL PROTECT HER.
...OKAY.
I'LL MAKE SOMETHING TO EAT.
STEP
INSIDE
THIS PUPPET'S BODY.
THE SOUL AND LIFE
THAT IS THE TRUE MEANING OF

BANG
THUD

I'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU
DO YOU KILL FOR FREE NOW THEN?
MARIA...!
UH...
STOP THIS, COLLARE
EVEN IF YOU SAVE THAT GIRL, YOU WON'T BE SAVED!
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN GIVEN MEDICINE SINCE THE DAY YOU STARTED HIDING THAT GIRL
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY LEFT, DO YOU?!
I JUST DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU...!

I WON'T GO BACK
I'M SORRY, SANGE
I HAVE TO PROTECT HER.
I'M... NO LONGER ANYONE'S TOOL OR PUPPET.

AS YOU WERE BEFORE.
...YOU'RE NOT THE SAME
THEN I'M GOING TO KILL YOU HERE
I'M GOING TO USE ALL MY STRENGTH.
I WON'T LET HER HAVE YOU.

CRACK

UH..
OWW..
NICHO-
LAS..?
WHERE..

AH...
.....
COUGH

NICHO-
LAS...
NICHO-
LAS!
WHY...
WHY...
YOU SAID...
YOU SAID WE'D STAY TOGETHER!
MA...
WHAT CAN I DO TO SAVE YOU?
TELL ME...
TELL ME!
!!
RIA...?
NICHOLAS!
...
MARIA...

I WANT YOU TO
YOU'LL...
LIVE...
LIVE FOR ME...
AND CHANGE THIS WORLD...
GROW UP...

ROAR

ROAR

YOUR FIRST LOVE WAS A PINOCCHIO.
FROM THEN ON, THE COUNTRY EXPERIENCED MANY WARS.
WORLD WAR II, VIETNAM, THE COLD WAR AND THE ARAB-ISRAELI WARS
HE LEFT ME A HOUSE AND SOME MONEY.
A PINOCCHIO?
BUT THERE ARE NO OFFICIAL RECORDS SHOWING THAT "DOLL SOLDIERS" WERE EMPLOYED.
THAT'S THE END OF HIS STORY...

ALTHOUGH I'VE LIVED FOR CLOSE TO A CENTURY,
FORMER SECRE-TARY
THAT'S UNDENIABLE PROOF THAT HE WAS HUMAN
THE DOLL YOU TOLD ME ABOUT.. HE CHOSE TO LOVE YOU
WAS I ABLE TO IMPROVE THIS WORLD A LITTLE?
I REMEM-BER YOU CLEARLY.
..YOU'RE RIGHT.
MAYBE IT IS...

Until the day their promise is fulfilled and they meet again... Please look forward to Tsurumi Yuu-sensei's next work.

END